

29 MAR 1973

A 4TH NEWSPAPER CONSIDERED HERE

Plant of Morning Telegraph
Reportedly Being Bought

By DAVID K. SIMPLER

Plans are advancing for a new afternoon newspaper in New York City.

John M. Shaheen, a millionaire industrialist who has contributed to Republican campaigns, is reported by newspaper sources to have bought presses, negotiated with the Lithographers Union, inquired about the costs of subscribing to wire services and agreed to purchase the old Morning Telegraph Building at 525 West 52d Street.

None of these steps is irrevocable, and both the building

and the presses — which are not yet installed — could easily be resold if Mr. Shaheen decides to abandon his plans. But according to various people who have dealt with the industrialist, the project is now very much alive.

Mr. Shaheen could not be reached for comment. Bruce Mait, former president of the now-defunct Newark News and the man who would reportedly run the new paper, said yesterday that "I'm not going to comment on it in any way, shape or manner — sorry."

One Union for All

However, other sources throughout the industry say the paper will begin as a five-day-a-week publication produced by full automated equipment that would cut labor costs to levels far below those of any of the three English-language dailies printed here.

According to these sources,

Mr. Shaheen's executives have been negotiating with the Lithographers Union to represent all the paper's employees, thereby avoiding the mosaic of 10 basic unions that have jurisdiction at other New York papers.

As word of this prospective arrangement has spread, some other union leaders have grumbled and talked privately about harassing the new paper. But others say they expect little trouble, since a new publication would add to the number of jobs.

The present owner of the building on 52d Street, Triangle Publications, Inc., has entered into an agreement to sell the structure to a company formed by the Shaheen Natural Resources Company, according to Harry C. Coles, Triangle's counsel.

"We have every expectation of closing in a short time," said Mr. Coles, predicting that

the Shaheen concern would take ownership by April 15.

The building — a drab, seven-story structure between 10th and 11th Avenues — is crawling with workmen these days. The old presses that put out The Morning Telegraph, a racing paper that folded last April, have been removed and the plant is being refurbished.

Mr. Shaheen is said to have purchased \$2-million worth of presses, folders and other accessories from the Goss Division of MGD Graphic Systems. Although no Goss official would confirm this, other newspaper sources said the presses were capable of producing full-size, 32-page papers using the offset method, which eliminates machines that set type in metal.

No delivery date has yet been set for the presses, apparently, and while some people close to project say the paper is scheduled to start publishing next September, oth-

ers doubt that it can be ready before September, 1974.

Up to now, Mr. Shaheen's experience has been mainly as an owner of oil refineries and paper and chemical concerns. He has also been described as a friend of President Nixon.

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